



# Daily Report 66/2021

22 March 2021<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

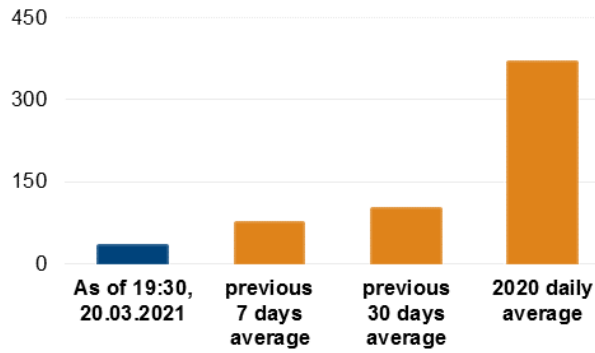
- In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 19 and 21 March, the SMM recorded 46 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 29 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 19 and 21 March, the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 34 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission observed a calm situation in south-east Kherson region.
- The SMM monitored a gathering in Kyiv in front of the Office of the President of Ukraine, during which it saw a group of protesters throw flares at the building and spray graffiti on it.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.\*

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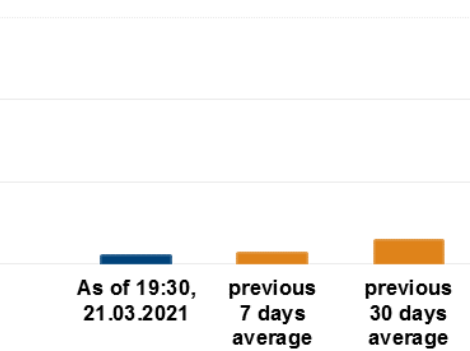
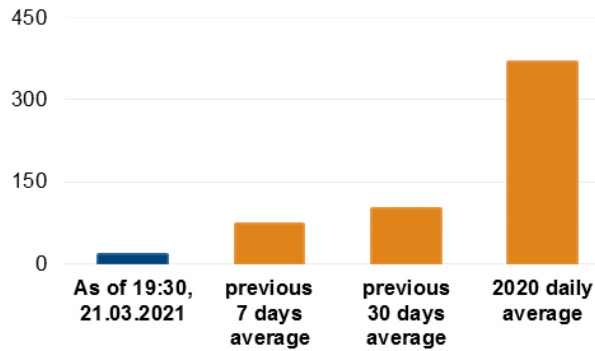
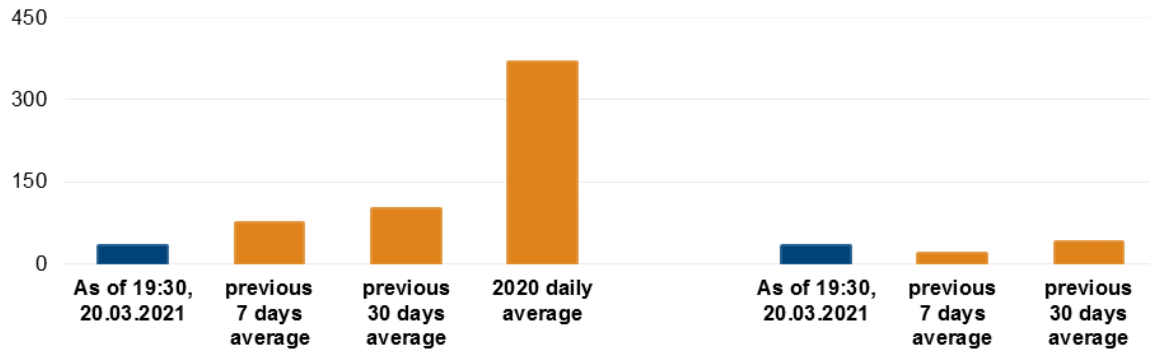
<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 21 March 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

## Ceasefire violations<sup>2</sup>

Number of recorded ceasefire violations<sup>3</sup>



Number of recorded explosions<sup>4</sup>



<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational, and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some of the other SMM cameras on 20 March.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

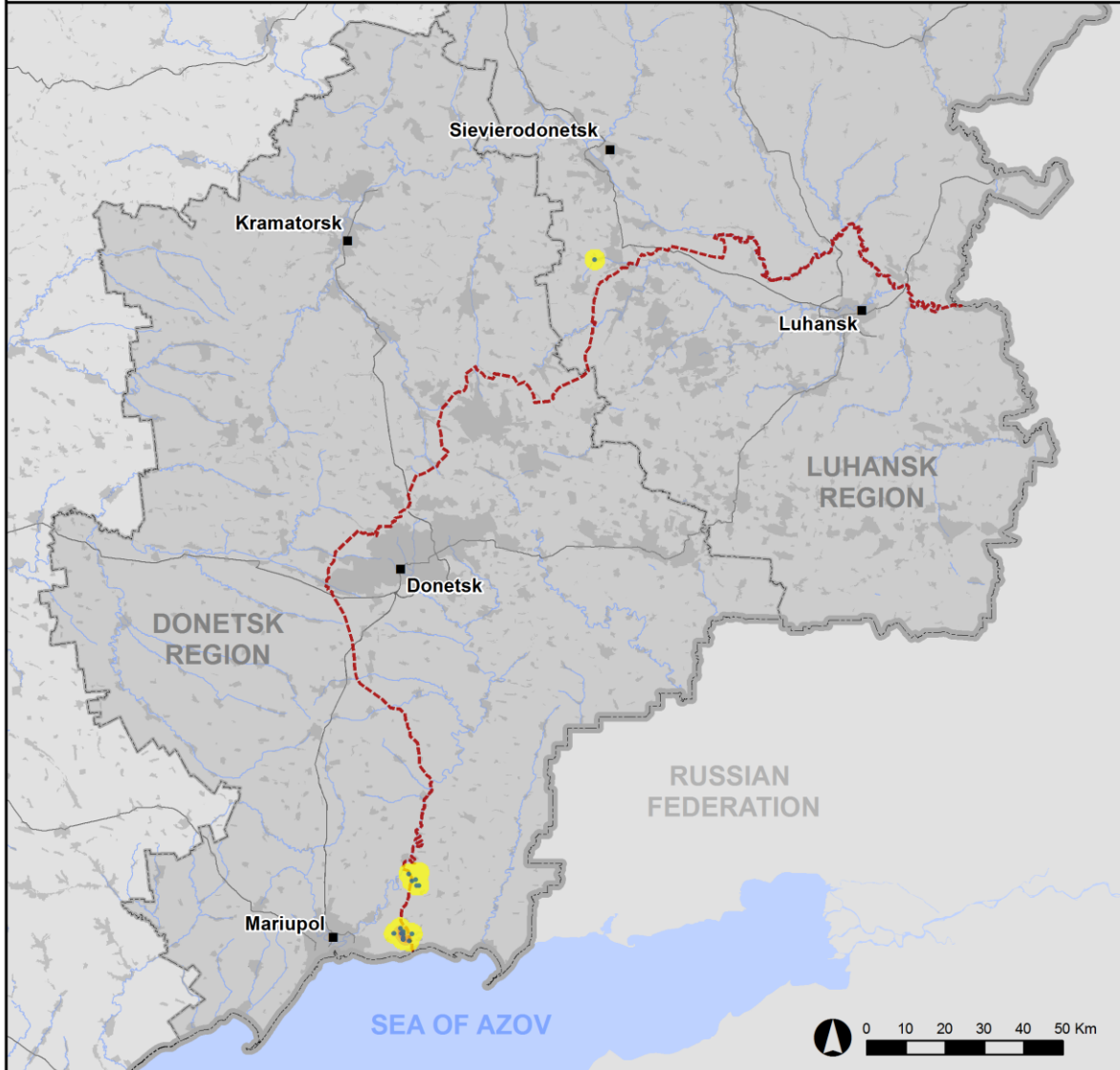
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

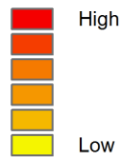


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Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 20-21 March 2021



#### Ceasefire violation concentration



- Explosion
- Settlement
- Estimated line of contact

Sources: Administrative Boundaries - OCHA; Roads, Rivers - OpenStreetMap; Sea - VLIZ (2005). IHO Sea Areas; Other - OSCE.

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 37N

This map is provided for illustrative purposes only. Its content is not warranted to be error-free and does not imply endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE SMM.

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Created: 22/03/2021

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 19 and 21 March, the SMM recorded 46 ceasefire violations, including 43 undetermined explosions, most of which occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 29 ceasefire violations, most of which also occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 19 and 21 March, the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation – an undetermined explosion in an area north-east of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk) on the evening of 20 March. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 34 ceasefire violations.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July 2020 until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded at least 12,720 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 4,575 explosions, 1,521 projectiles in flight, 154 muzzle flashes, 63 illumination flares and at least 6,407 bursts and shots).

### **Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>5</sup>**

On 21 March, while positioned inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On 20 March, while in Popasna, the SMM heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 5-6km north-east, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) but within 5km of its periphery.

On 20 and 21 March, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission saw members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), some of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. On 20 March, the members of the armed formations were accompanied by an ambulance carrying two men and a woman (ages unknown) in medical protective gear.

On both days, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission again saw five containers inside a fenced perimeter south of its southern edge, on the southern edge of the road leading eastwards towards Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk). The Mission also again saw another container on the area’s southern edge. Inside the area, it again saw a container about 60–70m north of the other five and another one about 350m north of the area’s southern edge, both on the western edge of road T-1316.

On 21 March, while positioned about 2km north Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed a car carrying two men (in their twenties) in military-style clothing driving on road C-051532 northwards towards Styla (non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk), and later another civilian car carrying two men (in their thirties), of whom one in military-style clothing, driving in the opposite direction. While

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<sup>5</sup> Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

positioned on the western edge of Petrivske, it observed four visibly armed men (in their twenties) in military-style clothing walk from the direction of Petrivske towards the north-eastern corner of the **disengagement area near Petrivske** and then return. The SMM also saw a civilian car carrying two men (in their twenties and thirties) in military-style clothing drive westward from the direction of Petrivske to about 150m east of the area's north-eastern corner and then return. The Mission also saw a visibly armed man (in his twenties) in military-style clothing walk westward from the direction of Petrivske towards the area's north-eastern corner.

On the same day, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over and near the disengagement area near Petrivske.\*

### **Withdrawal of weapons**

The Mission continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons in implementation of the Memorandum and the Package of Measures and its Addendum.

### **Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>6</sup>**

The SMM saw an armoured combat vehicle in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

On 20 March, while positioned about 2km south-east of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk), the Mission saw a military mini-van parked on the southern edge of road M-14. Next to it the SMM saw a black box and antennas. The Mission then saw a light-grey UAV fly about 50m north-east and land about 70m west-north-west of its position, respectively, despite the ban on operation of any types of aerial vehicles included in the 22 July TCG decision regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire. Subsequently, the SMM saw three Ukrainian Armed Forces soldiers collect the UAV and leave the area in the mini-van.

### **SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure**

On 20 and 21 March, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

On both days, the SMM also monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable regular railway track inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk).

### **Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints**

On 20 and 21 March, in Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska was open, with people queueing to travel in both directions. On 21 March, the SMM saw that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the repaired span of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge was open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

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<sup>6</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

On both days, the SMM also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were open but did not observe any people passing through, and that the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote and 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia were closed.

### **The Mission observed a calm situation in south-east Kherson region**

The Mission observed a calm situation in south-east Kherson region at checkpoints near Kalanchak (67km south-east of Kherson) and Chaplynka (77km south-east of Kherson) on 19 March; at a checkpoint near Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson) and at a State Border Guard Service of Ukraine post in Valok (188km south-east of Kherson) on 20 March; and along the coast of the Sea of Azov in and near Strilkove (193km south-east of Kherson) and Henichesk (176km east of Kherson) on 21 March.

### **The SMM monitored a protest near the Office of the President of Ukraine in Kyiv**

On 20 March, at about 18:45, in front of the building of the Office of the President of Ukraine (11 Bankova Street), the SMM observed about 2,000 people (men and women, in their twenties and thirties) expressing opinions in support of an activist. The Mission saw posters critical of the government and calling for the release of the activist from detention. It also saw the entrance to the building cordoned off by 100 law enforcement personnel.

At about 19:35, the Mission saw a group of about 20 men (in their early twenties) wearing black clothing and balaclavas walk to the entrance of the building from the direction of Instytutska Street and throw flares and firecrackers towards about 50 law enforcement officers present there, who subsequently moved towards Luteranska Street. The SMM then saw the same men break two windows of the building, spray red paint and write graffiti with messages critical of the government on it, and throw flares at the building. Shortly after, it saw about 200 law enforcement officers, some of them in anti-riot gear, return to the entrance of the building and attempt to disperse the crowd and then again move back towards Luteranska Street. At about 21:30, the Mission saw the protesters disperse. (For similar observations, see [SMM Daily Report of 25 February 2021](#).)

The SMM continued monitoring in Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Chernivtsi.

### **\*Restrictions of the SMM's freedom of movement or other impediments to fulfilment of its mandate**

*The SMM's monitoring and freedom of movement are restricted by security hazards and threats, including risks posed by mines, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other impediments – which vary from day to day. The SMM's mandate provides for safe and secure access throughout Ukraine. All signatories of the Minsk agreements have agreed on the need for this safe and secure access, that restriction of the SMM's freedom of movement constitutes a violation, and on the need for rapid response to these violations. They have also agreed that the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) should contribute to such response and co-ordinate mine clearance. Nonetheless, the armed formations in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions frequently deny the SMM access to areas adjacent to Ukraine's border outside control of the government (for example, see [SMM Daily Report of 16 March](#)*

2021). The SMM's operations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions remain restricted following [the fatal incident of 23 April 2017 near Pryshyb](#); these restrictions continued to limit the Mission's observations.

*Regular restrictions related to disengagement areas and mines/UXO:*

- The sides continued to deny the SMM full access, as well as the ability to travel certain roads previously identified as important for effective monitoring by the Mission and for civilians' movement, through failure to conduct comprehensive clearance of mines, UXO and other obstacles.

Other impediments:<sup>7</sup>

- On 20 March, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference during two separate flights, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Vesele (government-controlled, 21km north of Donetsk).
- On 21 March, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over and near the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk).
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Veselohorivka (non-government-controlled, 64km west of Luhansk).

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<sup>7</sup> For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

**Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>8</sup>**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Source of observation</b>
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
19/3/2021	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Tsvitni Pisky (11km north of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

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<sup>8</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.



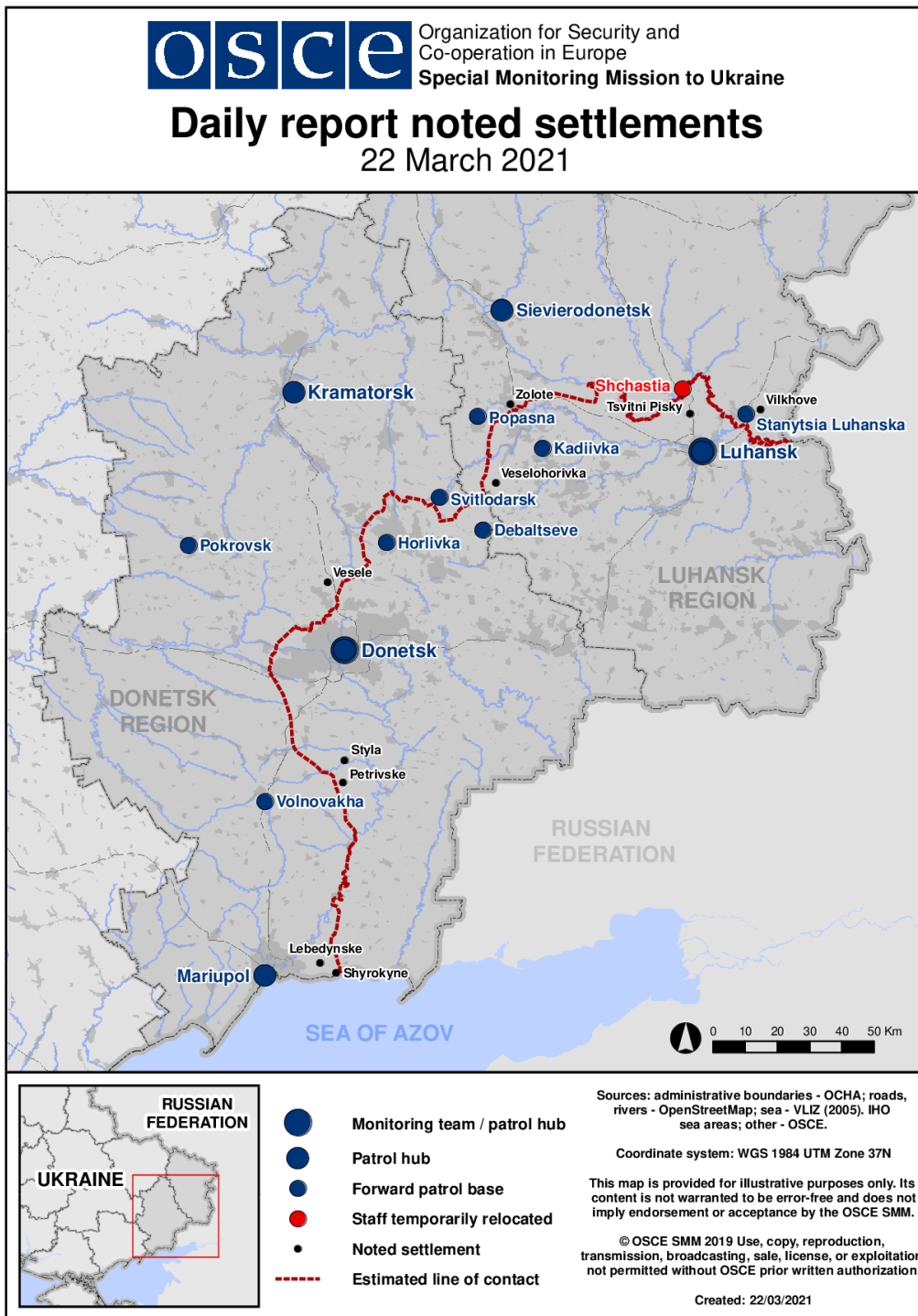
**Table of ceasefire violations as of 21 March 2021<sup>9</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	4-6km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S	N/K	19-Mar, 22:33
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	5-7km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 19:10
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 19:13
	5-7km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 19:13
	5-7km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 19:15
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 19:25
	5-7km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 19:26
	5-7km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 19:27
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 19:28
	5-7km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 19:29
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 19:46
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 19:46
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 19:48
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 19:48
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 20:08
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 20:12
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 20:15
	3-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 20:23
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 20:24
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 20:25
	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 20:26
3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 20:26	
4-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Mar, 20:45	
About 1km ESE of Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	3-5km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Mar, 12:28
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk)	5-6km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Mar, 18:39
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	2-4km ENE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera in Chermalyk)	N/K	21-Mar, 00:41
	4-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera in Chermalyk)	N/K	21-Mar, 00:51

<sup>9</sup> The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by SMM patrols or recorded by the SMM cameras, and it may include those also assessed to be live-fire exercises, controlled detonations, etc. Details provided – in terms of distance, direction, weapons-type, etc. – are based on assessments provided by monitors on the ground and technical monitoring officers, and are not always necessarily precise. When information is not known (indicated with an “N/K”), the SMM was unable to ascertain such information due to distance, weather conditions technical limitations and/or other considerations. Ceasefire violations recorded by more than one patrol/camera and assessed to be the same are entered only once.

	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera in Chermalyk)	N/K	21-Mar, 03:39
About 600m NE of Lebedynske (government- controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	3-4km NE	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Mar, 10:34-10:40
	3-4km NE	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	21-Mar, 10:34-10:40
	3km ENE	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Mar, 10:55-11:15

### Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>10</sup>



<sup>10</sup> The SMM is deployed to ten locations throughout Ukraine – Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipro, Chernivtsi, Luhansk and Kyiv – as per Permanent Council Decision 1117 of 21 March 2014. This map of eastern Ukraine is meant for illustrative purposes and indicates locations mentioned in the report, as well as those where the SMM has offices (monitoring teams, patrol hubs and forward patrol bases) in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. (In red: a forward patrol base from which SMM staff have temporarily relocated based on recommendations of security experts from participating States, as well as SMM security considerations. The SMM uses the premises during daylight hours and also patrols in this settlement during daylight hours).